

The Parish of St John the Evangelist Great Stanmore



**Annual Report and Accounts
for the year ended
31st December 2017**

Front cover photograph: Confirmation and Admission to Communion before Confirmation, October 2017. Used with permission.

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The Annual Meeting of Parishioners
[for the election of churchwardens]
Sunday 29th April 2018, 10.30am in Church House

AGENDA

1. Opening prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. To receive the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting of Parishioners (30th April 2017)
4. Election of tellers (if required)
5. Election of two churchwardens to serve 2018/2019
6. Date of next meeting
7. Closing prayer

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on
Sunday 30th April 2017 at 10.45am
in the Wolstenholme Hall, Church House**

Chair: The Revd Matthew Stone	Minutes: Karen Stirrup
Attendance: 76 parishioners (71 on the Electoral Roll)	

Introduction	
1.	<p>Opening Prayer The Rector, the Revd Matthew Stone, welcomed parishioners and prayed for the meeting, the purpose of which was to elect two churchwardens to serve 2017/2018.</p>
2.	<p>Apologies for absence Apologies were received and accepted from: Paul Angell, Laura Angell, Valerie Banger, Elizabeth Bowen, Pat Hodgson, Louise Gregory, Jenny Gurdon, Eric Kershaw, Valerie Kershaw, Andrew Lungay, Farah Lungay, Keith MacCutchan, Marlice MacCutchan, Julianna Mair, Jill Medcalf, Paul Medcalf, Andrea Nicholson, Graham Nicholson, Grace Nicholson, the Revd Daniel Norris, Lara Onwordi, Margaret Ray, Edit Rees, Philip Rees, Stuart Webster, Frances Westcott, Barbara Whitten.</p>
Administration	
3.	<p>Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on 24th April 2016: to agree the minutes as a true record. The minutes were signed by the Rector as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p>
4.	<p>Election of tellers It was not necessary to appoint tellers.</p>
Election of two churchwardens to serve 2017/2018	
5.	<p>The Rector reported that two nominations had been received. He asked if anyone else wanted to put themselves forward to be a churchwarden, but there were no further nominations. The two nominations were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Mark Lynch</u> proposed by Patricia Hodgson, seconded by Sarah Wilkins. - <u>Jane Prentice</u> proposed by Ian Mackie MBE, seconded by Sylvia Daniels. <p>Mark Lynch and Jane Prentice were, therefore, duly elected unopposed to serve as churchwardens for 2017/2018. The Rector thanked both churchwardens for their work across 2016/2017. The Archdeacon's Visitation which will re-admit the churchwardens to their office will take place on 16th May 2017 at St John's Pinner.</p>
Miscellaneous	
6.	<p>Date of next meeting The next Annual Meeting of Parishioners will take place at 10.45am on Sunday 29th April 2018.</p>
7.	<p>Closing Prayer The Rector closed the meeting in prayer.</p>

The meeting closed at 10.50am

Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 29th April 2018, 10.50am in Church House

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. To receive the minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting (30th April 2017)
3. Matters arising
4. Reports
 - 4.1 Electoral Roll Officer's report
 - 4.2 PCC Secretary's review
 - 4.3 Presentation of accounts and Treasurer's financial review
 - 4.4 Fabric report
5. Election of tellers (if required)
6. Elections and appointments
 - 6.1 Election of 3 Deanery Synod Representatives to serve 2018/2021
 - 6.2 Election of 4 PCC Members to serve 2018/2021
 - 6.3 Appointment of Sidespersons for 2018/2019
 - 6.4 Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2018/2019
7. Group Reports
8. Assistant Curate's Review
9. Rector's Review
10. Capital Vision 2020 (our Mission Action Plan)
11. GDPR
12. Any other business
13. Date of next meeting
13. Closing prayer

Advance Notice of PCC Meeting – Sunday 29th April 2018 at 11.45am

Immediately after the close of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, there will be a very short meeting of the newly elected Parochial Church Council (in the Bernays Room) to appoint the Church Officers: Vice-Chairman, Deputy Wardens (if appropriate), Secretary, Treasurer and Electoral Roll Officer. Also, to appoint members to the Standing Committee.

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on
Sunday 30th April 2017 at 10.50am
in the Wolstenholme Hall, Church House**

Chair: The Revd Matthew Stone	Minutes: Karen Stirrup
Attendance: 76 parishioners (71 on the Electoral Roll)	

Introduction	
1.	<p>Apologies for absence Apologies were received and accepted from: Paul Angell, Laura Angell, Valerie Banger, Elizabeth Bowen, Pat Hodgson, Louise Gregory, Jenny Gurdon, Eric Kershaw, Valerie Kershaw, Andrew Lungay, Farah Lungay, Keith MacCutchan, Marlize MacCutchan, Julianna Mair, Jill Medcalf, Paul Medcalf, Andrea Nicholson, Graham Nicholson, Grace Nicholson, the Revd Daniel Norris, Lara Onwordi, Margaret Ray, Edit Rees, Philip Rees, Stuart Webster, Frances Westcott, Barbara Whitten.</p>
Administration	
2.	<p>Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 24th April 2016: to agree the minutes as a true record. The minutes were signed by the Rector as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting.</p>
3.	<p>Matters arising – none.</p>
Reports	
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.1 Electoral Roll Officer The Rector presented the 2017 report on behalf of Andrea Nicholson, Electoral Roll Officer, which was based on a revision that took place between 24th March and 14th April 2017. The revised roll stands at 192 which is made up of 83 residents (who live within the parish boundary) and 109 non-residents (who do not live within the parish boundary). 22 people have been added and 8 were removed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 moved away, - 2 died (Mary Carmody and Winefred White), - 1 no longer attends (and does not live in the parish) and - 2 because their entries were duplicated. <p>The Rector commented that 71 people have been added to the Electoral Roll since his induction in July 2014. This is very encouraging. It was sad, however, to record the deaths of Winefred White (December 2016) and Mary Carmody (April 2017). Both had been members of St John's Church for many years.</p> • 4.2 PCC Secretary's review Parish Administrator, Karen Stirrup (in her capacity as PCC Secretary) had prepared a report based on the work of the PCC in 2016. See pages A7-A10 of the 2016 Accounts Booklet. There were no questions. • 4.3 Presentation of accounts and PCC Treasurer's financial review Treasurer, Jennifer Neve, had also prepared a report which is on pages A11-A13 of the 2016 Accounts Booklet. <p>The Rector gave an overview of the income and expenditure during the year and highlighted the surplus of £5,630 (which included the monies held by the</p>

Great Stanmore Bell Ringers). The actual surplus on church activities was £1,890 - the best year for many and this is after a number of improvement projects were undertaken during the year. There were no questions.

Jean Orpwood proposed the 2016 Accounts be adopted. Lydia McLean seconded the proposal. The 2016 Accounts were unanimously adopted by the meeting.

The Rector thanked Jenny for all her work as Treasurer.

- **4.4 Fabric report**

The Rector commented that we were now up straight with the routine maintenance work which is the first time for many years. A number of improvements were made to our plant including the installation of a new sound system and lighting system, major works to the bells, the installation of a fabricated steel stairway (to replace a vertical ladder in the bell tower) and the repair of the flag pole. A budget was set aside to pay for some roofing works that were necessary to the church, Hollond Lodge and Church House. A new bathroom was fitted in Hollond Lodge and new windows and doors fitted in The Chase.

Various savings had been achieved. With the London Borough of Harrow now responsible for the churchyard maintenance, £6,300 had been saved as it was no longer necessary for a contractor to cut the grass etc. The Local Authority also paid to have two trees removed during the year, one of which was leaning badly and very inaccessible. The bill for this work was £10,000. We saved money by not having to replace the boundary fence at the western end of the churchyard. This work was paid for by Taylor Wimpey at a cost of £12,600 who initially disputed that the fence was theirs! See pages 10-12 of the Annual Report for full details.

Mark Lynch said that there were 119 actions arising from the 2016 Quinquennial Inspection and in the region of 20% have been addressed already. Looking ahead, the next major project is to install a new heating system in the church. This may cost as much as £100,000. The money for this should come from a mission-based grant we are entitled to apply for following the sale of the Old Rectory earlier this year. If there is money left over then it is hoped the inside of the church would be decorated.

The Rector informed parishioners that it was a shame that in spite of our efforts to build new hall facilities on a piece of the Old Rectory Land, this had not come to fruition, because the London Borough of Harrow's Planning Department were most unwilling to consider such a planning application because we are located in a Conservation Area.

Lydia McLean asked whether the church piano could be tuned this year. The Rector said this will be done.

Carole White thanked the Churchwardens and the Deputy Wardens for all their hard work across the year. She commented that following Sylvia Daniels and Graham Denman as Churchwardens was a tall order, but the current team had done so with ease. All credit to them.

Elections and appointments

5.	Elections of tellers It was not necessary to appoint tellers.
6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="391 280 1474 560">• 6.1 Election of 3 Deanery Synod Representatives to serve 2017/2020 The Rector reported that three nominations had been received as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="438 392 1474 425">- <u>Sylvia Daniels</u> proposed by Stuart Webster, seconded by Jenny Neve<li data-bbox="438 425 1474 492">- <u>Beverley McKeon</u> proposed by Beverley Singleton, seconded by Andrea Nicholson<li data-bbox="438 492 1474 560">- <u>Daniel McKeon</u> - proposed by Beverley Singleton, seconded by Andrea Nicholson <p data-bbox="438 593 1474 739">The Rector asked if anyone else wanted to put themselves forward, but there were no further nominations. Accordingly, these three people were duly elected to serve as our Deanery Synod Representatives in the next triennium which will commence on 1st June 2017.</p> <p data-bbox="438 772 1474 840">The Rector thanked Graham Denman who was retiring this year. Sylvia Daniels and Daniel McKeon were re-elected to serve for another term.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="391 884 1474 1198">• 6.2 Election of 4 PCC Members to serve 2017/2020 The Rector reported that four nominations had been received as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="438 985 1474 1019">- <u>Paul Angell</u> proposed by Jane Prentice, seconded by Esther Deen<li data-bbox="438 1019 1474 1052">- <u>Henry Prentice</u> proposed by Rebekah Stone, seconded by Sylvia Daniels<li data-bbox="438 1052 1474 1120">- <u>Susan Jones</u> – proposed by Rosemary Mackenzie-Corby, seconded by Pat Hodgson<li data-bbox="438 1120 1474 1198">- <u>Beverley Singleton</u> – proposed by Andrea Nicholson, seconded by Ian Walker <p data-bbox="438 1232 1474 1332">The Rector asked if anyone else wanted to put themselves forward, but there were no further nominations. Accordingly, these four people were duly elected to serve on the PCC for a period of three years until 2020.</p> <p data-bbox="438 1366 1474 1478">The Rector thanked the retiring PCC Members: Beverley McKeon (who has just been appointed as a Deanery Synod Representative – see 6.1 above), Rosemary Mackenzie-Corby, Jenny Neve and Frances Westcott.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="391 1512 1474 1836">• 6.3 Appointment of sidespersons for 2017/2018 The Rector asked if all sidespersons appointed at the last APCM could be re-appointed. Parishioners agreed to this nem con. The names are as follows: Valerie Banger, Elizabeth Bowen, Reanna Gregory, Megan Hall, Pat Hodgson, Katherine Johnson, Nicole Lungay, John Mackenzie-Corby, Daniel McKeon, Lauren McKeon, Jennifer Neve, Andrea Nicholson, Mick Oliver, Olive Oliver, John Pay, Jackie Peters, Diana Phillips, Pauline Salway, Jamie Stirrup, Bill Wyon and Lorna Wyon. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="391 1870 1474 1937">• 6.4 Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2017/2018 Derek Taylor-Mew was re-appointed for a further twelve months nem con.

7. Group Reports

The 2016 Annual Report and Accounts was published on 2nd April 2016. Rather than comment on each report, the Rector proposed only specific remarks be made by the authors, or questions asked of them as necessary. The numbering which follows is in line with the Annual Report.

- **7.1 Bereavement Visiting Team (page 13)**
Michael Carmody commented that he had in fact retired from the team.
- **7.5 Great Stanmore Bell Ringers (page 15)**
The Rector said how delighted everyone was with the very successful tower appeal which had raised £25,000 in 11 months. Peter Scott, Tower Master, thanked all those who had donated and supported the appeal.
- **7.6 Flowers (page 17)**
The Rector said that additional help was needed to supplement the excellent work undertaken by our faithful team of flower arrangers. Expressions of interest are to be directed to Sheila Oliver.
- **7.7 Fundraising Committee (page 17)**
As the money raised by this team has not been spent yet, the current plan is for it to be used towards the most urgent repairs to the organ.
- **7.21 Safeguarding (page 25)**
The Rector spent some time explaining the importance of keeping all children and young people safe who enter our premises and take part in our activities (eg Junior Church/Youth Group). A safeguarding policy is in place and a raft of procedures to ensure the policy is strictly complied with. Churchwarden, Mark Lynch, has recently completed an audit and found our procedures to be of a high standard. There were no questions.
- **7.24 Welcome at St John's (page 27)**
The Rector stressed the importance of all church members acting as welcomers to ensure all newcomers are supported and encouraged.

8. Assistant Curate's Review

The Rector said we were very lucky to have the Revd Daniel Norris as our Assistant Curate. It is incredible how he manages to find time to work on a Sunday in church as well as being an Executive Headteacher. It is likely that Daniel will move to a new church in 2018 once his three-year curacy has ended.

9. Rector's Review

The Rector had given an overview of the variety of work he has undertaken during the course of a year. Lydia McLean thanked the Rector for all he does.

10. Capital Vision 2020 (our Mission Action Plan)

A copy of our Mission Action Plan (MAP) was circulated for all parishioners to take home. It is essential churches have a MAP which records the various missional goals the PCC and others are seeking to deliver to grow the church. Across the past three years no less than 15 goals have been achieved. There are others which are currently being worked on.

	<p>Jean Orpwood asked what a Posada was. The Rector explained that a Posada is a Mexican tradition of passing the nativity figures of Mary and Joseph from house to house on a rota basis during the season of Advent. Parishioners will have the chance to sign up to host the figures for one evening, with one host family taking it to the next; there is the chance to pray together, perhaps share a cup of tea and a cake.</p> <p>Michael Carmody asked whether a disabled toilet could be installed in the church. Churchwarden Mark Lynch responded by saying it would cost a significant sum of money to pay for such an installation and where would it be put? The matter was important, however, and had come up in the 2016 Quinquennial Inspection report. It will be considered in due course.</p> <p>Mike Evens asked what "New Wine" was. The Rector explained that it is annual Christian Festival that some members of St John's would be participating in for the first time this summer.</p>
<p>11 Any other business</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11.1 Standing Order mandate The Rector thanked parishioners for their generous stewardship and asked them to consider giving by standing order. This would save the expense of having to purchase the white pew envelopes and orange regular giving envelopes. In addition, it would save the counting team's time and reduce the risk of carrying the cash to the bank each week. A supply of forms was left in the Wolstenholme Hall for parishioners to take if required. • 11.2 Parish Administrator The Rector reminded parishioners not to ask the Parish Administrator work questions on a Sunday but to wait until the Parish Office is open. • 11.3 Thanks to the Rector and his family Churchwarden Jane Prentice expressed how much she and Mark Lynch have enjoyed their first year in office, and thanked the congregation for all their help and support. She said that along with their hardworking deputies, Farah Lungay and Malcolm Woods, they have learned so much and are really looking forward to the coming year. She went on to thank the Rector for all the tireless work he does and for all the help and support he has given to them. He was presented with a voucher for a meal. Jane thanked Becky, James and Emma for all their love and support for Matthew, and for what they contribute to the life of St John's. Becky was presented with a basket of flowers. • 11.4 Closing remarks from the Rector The Rector thanked parishioners for all they do to support the mission and ministry of St John's Church. A huge number of parishioners give so generously of their time and talents which has helped St John's to grow and develop over the past year. It is a great place to be!
<p>10.</p>	<p>Date of next meeting The next APCM will take place on Sunday 29th April 2018 at 10.50am</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Closing Prayer The Rector closed the meeting in prayer.</p>

The meeting closed at 11.40am

4. Reports

4.1 Electoral Roll Officer's report

A verbal report will be given at the meeting.

4.2 Parish Administrator's Report

See pages A7-A12 of 2017 Accounts Booklet.

4.3 Treasurer's Financial Review and Accounts

See pages A12-A15 of 2017 Accounts Booklet.

4.4 Fabric Report

During 2017, the following work has been undertaken:

Church

- A Faculty was obtained in late 2016 to install new lighting which was fitted in January 2017. The new lighting, which cost £53,967.62, has made a remarkable difference to the interior. We received a generous legacy of £47,500 from the late Deryck Taylor in 2015 and were able to claim back the VAT of £8,959.56. Mr. Taylor's children were invited to switch the new lights on in the 9.30am Parish Communion on 12th February 2017.
- A Faculty was obtained in late 2016 to replace the vertical access ladder to the bell chamber with a fabricated steel stairway; re-hang the tenor bell with new fittings and overhaul the wheels, bearings, clappers and pulleys on the other seven bells. The two treble bells were also re-tuned and the clock chime hammers were refurbished. Cost £31,230. The PCC acknowledged and thanked the Bell Ringers for their hard work in leading a very successful appeal in 2016, which raised £27,493.24 (including three grants which totaled £9,500). We were able to claim back the VAT of £4,450.
- Two new bars were fitted to the windows in the ringing chamber. Cost £250.
- A List B Faculty was obtained to install a digital projector and electronic screen. Cost £12,511.20. We received a generous donation of £10,000 (£12,500 including Gift Aid), which covered the cost. Of this sum, £5,000 was received in 2016 and £5,000 in 2017.
- A List B Faculty was obtained to replace the south aisle box gutter (an action arising from the 2016 Quinquennial Inspection). As part of the work, the moss was scraped off the north facing ridge of this section of the roof and the entire area was treated with fungicide. A heli-bar was fitted to the stone cross at the south end of the roof as it was cracked. Cost £5,592. A twenty-year guarantee was obtained.
- The small ventilation chamber roof leading up from the boiler room was replaced (an action arising from the 2016 Quinquennial Inspection). Cost £288.
- The tower was surveyed (an action arising from the 2016 Quinquennial Inspection). Cost £2,136.
- A survey was carried out in the bell tower as there was evidence of woodworm. However, it transpired that there was no evidence of any live activity. Cost NIL.
- The PCC considered the feasibility of installing a disabled toilet in the church. It is currently cost prohibitive.
- A discussion about replacing the heating system commenced.
- The gutters and downpipes were cleared of leaves. Cost £291.52.

- New noticeboards were fitted. Cost £747.06. This was paid for out of a memorial donation of £5,000 (£6,250 incl. Gift Aid) received during 2017. The PCC will decide how to spend the remainder in 2018, possibly on new chapel curtains.
- A new external tap was fitted (with removable head) to replace the old imperial tap. Cost NIL.
- The first annual asbestos check was undertaken and the register updated. Cost NIL.
- A wooden box was made to cover the sound system cabinet. Cost NIL.
- The fire extinguishers were serviced and one new carbon dioxide extinguisher was purchased. Cost £130.18.
- The oil-fired boiler was serviced and safety tested. Cost £210.
- A broken drain was repaired and a new section of pipe fitted. This work was undertaken as an insurance claim. Cost £100 (= policy excess). We paid a firm to undertake an initial investigation. Cost £385. A ten-year guarantee was obtained.
- The white-edging of all steps was renewed. Cost £80.50.
- The lightning protection system was tested. Cost £156.
- Two Diocese of London organ advisers visited to provide a report on what works needed to be undertaken to repair and overhaul the organ. Three quotations are being obtained for this work.
- The organ was tuned and a number of faults corrected on two occasions. Cost £696.
- The organ blower and humidifier were serviced on two occasions. Cost £348.
- The bell tower clock was serviced. Cost £294.

Churchyard

- The Churchyard has been maintained to a good standard by the London Borough of Harrow. Cost NIL. The south footpath leading to Rectory Lane was resurfaced as it was uneven in places. Cost Nil.
- A dead tree (the second tree on the right as you enter Rectory Lane) was felled by the London Borough of Harrow. The Archdeacon of Northolt gave his consent before the work was undertaken. Cost Nil.

Old Church

- The safety wire system and personal protective equipment were serviced. Cost £394.80.
- The Quinquennial Inspection was undertaken. The Diocese of London paid for this.
- A structural survey was undertaken following the Quinquennial Inspection. Cost £672.
- The vegetation growing from the tops of the walls was removed. Cost £105.

Church House

- An electric wall heater was replaced in the Micklem Hall. Cost £346.27
- Three air vents were replaced to remedy a fault with the Wolstenholme Hall heating system. Cost £115.
- A new Ariston 2KW water heater was fitted to restore hot water to the toilet washbasins. Cost £360.
- The automatic air vent was replaced on the heating boiler. Cost £53.
- The lock on the main front door was adjusted by a locksmith. Cost NIL.
- The electronic ignition on the cooker failed and was replaced. Cost NIL (as an extended warranty is in place).
- Two cracked panes of leaded glass in the Wolstenholme Hall were replaced. Cost £156.

- A new noticeboard with lockable cover was fitted in the foyer. Cost £115.60. This was paid for out of the £5,000 (£6,250 incl. Gift Aid) memorial donation received in 2017. See similar entry under 'church' above.
- Handrails were fitted at the main entrance.
- An annual asbestos check was undertaken and the register updated. Cost NIL.
- The toilets and washbasins were replaced, new hand-dryers and hand towel dispensers fitted (a new mirror was fitted in the ladies' toilet) and new flooring laid. Cost £4,820.40.
- The filters in the Wolstenholme Hall heating system were cleaned.
- The fire extinguishers/blankets were serviced and one new carbon dioxide extinguisher was purchased. Cost £164.94.
- The heating and hot water boilers were serviced and safety tested. Cost £228. The kitchen smoke and carbon dioxide detectors were also checked.
- The white-edging of all steps was renewed. Cost £80.50.
- All windows were cleaned (inside and out). Cost NIL. This work was undertaken by a member of the congregation who works as a window cleaner.
- The brick footpath which runs along the Wolstenholme Hall windows was repaired. Cost £300.
- Broken/missing tiles were replaced and gutters cleared of leaves. Cost £1,597.82.
- The ivy was removed from the front elevation and a repair was undertaken, which included new lead flashing being fitted. Cost £4,021.20.
- The exterior woodwork was coated using high-quality wood coating. Cost £2,404.23.
- The chimney was swept. Cost £80.
- A substantial leak occurred in the ladies' toilet. The water was quickly swept away and the foyer carpet cleaned the next day to avoid a musty smell developing. The leak was repaired for free. The carpet cleaning cost £45.
- Minor works were undertaken including: fitting new lagging to the toilet/foyer pipes, replacing the broken lock on the back door, filling holes in the Wolstenholme Hall walls (possibly caused by a rodent), adjusting a cupboard door handle in the Micklem Hall and replacing a wooden drain cover near the kitchen waste pipe that was rotten. Cost £444.
- A foam fire extinguisher was discharged by accident. The recharge cost £30.59.

Church Field

- Church Field was maintained in line with the contract in place with Michael Fox. Cost £1,920.
- A neighbour in Tudor Well Close asked if the ivy growing on the trees next to the Micklem Hall could be severed as it obscures the sunlight in her back garden. Cost £144.

Church House Cottage

- Assured Shorthold Tenancy renewed for 12 months on 12th May at an increased rent of £1,050pcm.
- New bath mixer taps were fitted £104.99.
- New tap connectors were fitted and a waste pipe was replaced. Cost £90.
- A leak from the shower pump was repaired. Cost £133.24.
- New bathroom fitted. Cost £4,180.
- Broken/missing tiles were replaced and gutters cleared of leaves. Cost £399.46.
- A former chimney vent was repaired (and associated damage remedied). Cost £2,880.
- The exterior woodwork was coated using high quality wood coating. Cost £355.57.

Hollond Lodge

- Assured Shorthold Tenancy renewed for 12 months on 1st December at an increased rent of £850pcm.
- Broken/missing roof tiles were replaced. Cost £698.64.
- The exterior woodwork was coated using high quality wood coating (as part of this work, the gutters were cleared of leaves and the missing decorative tiling was re-fitted). Cost £310.98.

The Chase

- Assured Shorthold Tenancy signed for 12 months on 26th February at an increased rent of £1,675pcm.
- A new extractor hood was fitted above the cooker as the old one was beyond economic repair. Cost £186.87.
- A new hob has been fitted and the old splash tiles replaced as they were in poor condition. Cost £399.99.
- New bath tub tap valves were fitted. Cost £50.

The PCC has been diligent in making sure repairs are undertaken in a timely fashion and that improvements are made where possible. Ongoing work to tackle the long list of actions arising from the 2016 Quinquennial Inspection continues.

The General and the Fire Risk Assessments for the Church and Church House were reviewed and updated. The Risk Assessment for the Old Church was also reviewed and updated. Actions arising from the review will be undertaken during the course of 2018. The Health & Safety policy was updated and is now on display in the porch.

**Mark Lynch and Jane Prentice
Churchwardens**

The following elections/appointments will now take place:

5. Election of tellers *(if required)*

6. Elections and Appointments

- 6.2 Elections to the Parochial Church Council to serve 2018/2021 (x 4)**
- 6.3 Appointment of Sidespersons for 2018/2019**
- 6.4 Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2018/2019**

7. Group Reports

7.1 Bereavement Visiting Team

Our team of Bereavement Visitors has only undertaken a few visits this year. Although there have been a number of funerals at St John's, several families when asked declined the offer of a visitor and others live some way from Stanmore.

Of those we receive via the Bereavement Care Office, some clients have experienced their bereavement some months previously. This suggests that coping with grief may be seen by the bereaved person to be a responsibility that needs to be taken privately, in the first instance. A point comes when they are ready to accept help. Most often this occurs between three to nine months after the loss of their loved one. In recent weeks we have begun to re-visit those who had previously declined a visitor to determine whether they would now like to receive one. A letter of introduction is sent and this is followed up by a telephone call. In the meantime, the group continues to meet every few weeks to share our experiences and support one another in what might be difficult circumstances.

Supervision is an essential part of the safe functioning of the group, not only for the clients but particularly for the visitor.

St John's maintains Corporate membership with Bereavement Care (BC) who provide ongoing training for our visitors, including an annual conference that attracts excellent speakers. BC continues to develop quality of care standards of practice that inform outside agencies and possible funding organisations of our intent to offer a professional service to the communities of Harrow and beyond.

Our work is always confidential and may continue for as long as the visitor is required. In early November, at All Souls-tide we held a well-attended memorial service for all who have experienced a bereavement in the previous two years and included names of parishioners who had died some time previously. This informal service is always much appreciated and allows the bereaved families to reflect on their loss and begin looking towards the future. Besides this service, our Tree of Lights at Christmas, both inside and outside the Church, prove to be a helpful addition to remembering our loved ones at what can be a difficult time of the year.

While we always look for potential visitors, we are hopeful that our present visitors may be able to help other groups nearby where there is more work available. If any would care to know more and consider sharing in this most rewarding work, they are welcome to speak either to the Rector or myself. We also invite those who would like to speak to us about their bereavement, however long ago, to do so in confidence.

Jean Orpwood

7.2 Café St Jean

The Café continues to grow in its popularity and we think we can claim that it has become 'the social hub' of our church congregation after the 9.30am Parish Communion. We commonly serve 60 – 70 hot drinks to our "regulars" and frequently entertain the families and friends of children who are brought for baptism. Members of the congregation often celebrate birthdays, wedding anniversaries and other special occasions by providing a cake, wine and nibbles alongside the coffees and teas being served. This always goes down well!

We continue to serve fair-trade tea, coffee and biscuits and we are still just able to cover our costs with the suggested donation of 50p per cup.

This report presents me with the opportunity to publicly thank all the team members for their continued support and loyalty to the Café – it is very hard work and when members of the congregation show their appreciation through comment or by lending a helping hand this is greatly valued.

We are delighted to welcome Susan Jones, Nathan Powell and Bev Singleton as new members to the team.

Rosemary Mackenzie-Corby (Co-ordinator)

7.3 Churchyard Gardeners

We remain grateful to the London Borough of Harrow for regularly cutting the grass, keeping the hedges trimmed and clearing the fallen leaves. The nearly dead tree, which was in danger of dropping dead branches or falling on parked cars in Rectory Lane, was felled in January. In February, part of the footpath was resurfaced on the south side and another section on the west side. In the autumn the accumulated moss on the north side was considerably reduced. All of this work has been undertaken free of charge by the Local Authority following the formal closure of the churchyard in late 2015.

The lights outside the tower room door and west door were repaired as part of the project to replace the interior lights. It is now safer to use the paths at night.

For the third year running we had an external Christmas Tree – an excellent idea suggested originally by Gary and Valerie Banger. In 2017 the tree was funded by various donations received from members of the congregation. It is hoped this arrangement will continue in future years.

Very many thanks to Pauline Ball for the gift of a new bench in memory of her late husband Edward. This bench is located at the south west corner of the church and faces the Old Church.

The rather dry spring made it easier to weed the alliums from the long borders. They can be identified by their white flowers and strong onion smell when touched. Although pretty, they had become invasive and swamped the primroses that used to be more plentiful and might now return. The alliums have already spread to neighbouring graves and need to be prevented from setting seeds and re-establishing themselves.

New drainage pipes had to be laid through the flowerbed on the south east corner of the church. That bed needs digging over to remove broken roots and replanting – ideas or offers would be most welcome!

The roses have been fed and regularly dead-headed and the beds around them weeded and replenished. The graves on the south side of the church have been weeded and bedding geraniums in the long borders gave colour throughout the summer.

The fuchsias on the south west corner of the church looked wonderful all summer until they were attacked by fuchsia gall mite which is difficult to eradicate. The fuchsias have been cut to the ground to try and prevent the mite from overwintering.

Thanks to all who have helped keep our churchyard looking good and particularly Peter and Matthew for picking up the litter.

Carole White

7.4 Engage

Engage is a new five o'clock service launched in October 2017. It was introduced to offer a more contemporary style of service for those who like it and broaden further the options for worship at St John's. The music is led by a band, consisting of members of other churches in the local area alongside members of our own congregation, and this ecumenical dynamic has greatly enriched our experiences so far. Our aim is to hear from a variety of people speaking on the theme for each month's service and for the congregation to have an opportunity to engage in the service, responding to God in a personal way. Various speakers have been invited and the themes each month so far been based on the capital vision 2020: Vision - led by Ben Lovell (Vicar of St Mary's, Hampton); Confidence - led by Jonny Douglas (formerly Associate Vicar, Emmanuel Northwood); and Compassion - led by our very own Jane Prentice!

At the time of writing, we have just finished the year and our last service was led by Jane. This service was particularly personal for us all. Looking at the theme of compassion, we thought of an area in our lives we struggled with, as well as a compassionate act we do well. The thoughts were written on a Christmas decoration and hung onto our Christmas prayer tree in church. I found this particularly reflective going into the Christmas season.

We now look forward to the next few months with our last capital vision theme of Creativity (Joel Botham – January), as well as themes of Joy (Rachel Lacey - February), Trust (Jeremy Aspinall – March), Prayer and Praise (Deborah Barnett – April) and Wholeness (Lindsay Melliush – May).

Louise Gregory

7.5 Great Stanmore Bell Ringers

As reported last time, 2016 was devoted to raising funds for the refurbishment of our ring of 8 bells. Thanks to the generosity of our fellow parishioners and many other people and to the grants we received from the Middlesex and Hertford county associations of ringers, by December we were in sight of our target and able to commission the installation of the new metal stairway to provide safer access to the bells.

This new stairway greatly assisted the men from the Whitechapel Bell Foundry when they arrived early in January 2017 to begin work on the bells. The tenor, the two trebles and the 4th were taken to the foundry, where the tenor was fitted with a new headstock, the trebles were re-tuned and the 4th had to go because it proved impossible to remove a seized bolt while the bell was still in the tower.

For ten weeks not only were the bells silent on Sundays and during our usual practice time on Thursday evenings but even the clock was silent as the hour is struck on the tenor bell.

Late in March Whitechapel informed us that the work had been completed and a few days later a lorry arrived in Rectory Lane. One by one the four bells were unloaded and trundled up to the south door, where they were arranged, together with the new wheels, for a photo shoot. That was followed by the excitement of seeing them hauled aloft, swaying a little but avoiding collision with the Wolstenholme Monument, until they disappeared from sight through the hatch into the ringing chamber.

At the next few practices we were able to appreciate how much better the bells sounded and how much easier it is to ring them rhythmically. It was fortunate that the work was done between New Year and Easter, at the time of year when there are fewer weddings and visiting bands. We are also very happy that the project was achieved with a minimum of fuss and no unforeseen problems requiring more fund raising. Ours was one of the last jobs carried out by the Whitechapel Foundry, which had been working on bells in Whitechapel since 1570 until it was obliged to vacate the premises in April. Since the return of the bells we have been able to welcome several visiting bands, keen to find out for themselves how much better the bells go since their refurbishment.

Our tower outing in 2017 was to Penrith, where some old friends, who began their ringing at Great Stanmore, made us welcome. Many thanks are due to Nix Ruberry who did all the booking of rooms and towers. Most of us stayed at *The George Hotel*, an old coaching inn overlooking the main square. Our first ring was at Carlisle Cathedral on Friday evening. On Saturday we did a round trip – St Andrew, Greystoke; St Michael, Shap; St Lawrence, Appleby; St Cuthbert, Great Salkeld; and St Andrew, Penrith – before sitting down to dinner in *Gianni's*.

In the autumn we lost one of our regular ringers, Deborah Gosden, who is now at university but comes to ring whenever she is at home. We gained a new recruit, Jack Prentice, doing a Duke of Edinburgh award; he made very good progress and was able to ring alone at the end of 12 weeks. We hope he will continue to ring with us whenever he can.

As usual on New Year's Eve we rang the old year out and the New Year in with backwards rounds leading up to midnight, followed by twelve blows on the tenor and then 20 minutes of normal ringing.

St John's tower continues to be a member of both the Hertford County Association of Change-Ringers and of the Middlesex County Association and we attend their district meetings on a regular or occasional basis. This membership gives us access to monthly practices and specialist workshops to improve our ringing, technical advice on steeple keeping, quiz evenings and other social occasions. Both associations also have Bell Repair Funds, which make grants to individual towers. Most of the money in these funds is donated by the ringers themselves.

Anyone interested in learning to ring or simply curious to know what goes on in a ringing chamber or to see the bells, is very welcome to join us in the tower on most Thursday evenings from 8.15pm.

Peter Scott, Tower Master and Treasurer
Elizabeth Bowen, Deputy Master and Secretary

7.6 Flowers

The flower team has managed to ensure there have been fresh flowers at the altar and in the chapel, and special decorations for festivals, throughout the year. Donations to the flower fund have continued steadily.

In the spring, we were pleased to arrange the flowers for the wedding of Graham & Andrea Nicholson's daughter, Harriet (and now son-in-law, Russell).

The Christmas tree in the church was treated to new decorations this year and looked very splendid. There was once again an outdoor tree funded from donations by members of the congregation.

Apart from arranging the flowers, there are always tasks to be done and a chance to watch how arrangements can be created. If you would like to get involved with helping the flower team, please let us know as we would be delighted to welcome you.

Sheila Oliver

7.7 Fundraising Committee

The fundraising committee was set up in 2013 and is made up of around ten members of the congregation. Although in previous years we have held various events, last year we decided to hold only one event, our annual Fun Day. This event raised £1,019.09 bringing the current balance available for spending to £11,612.

Originally the money raised was going to be used to help fund improvement projects within the church (sound system, lighting and the projector/screen). These projects were completed without having to use any of the fundraising money, and apart from buying a new cooker and a baby changing unit for Church House, the money has remained untouched.

The committee felt that it would be good to have a cause for the money to go to and for the congregation to see where the money raised by them would be spent. The committee, along with the PCC, have agreed the money will go towards essential long overdue repairs to our much-loved organ. This is going to be a very costly project.

In 2018, we will be holding another Fun Day on Sunday 15th July. Please save the date now! We are always looking for more helpers and would welcome new members to the committee.

Jane Prentice

7.8 Holiday Club

As the summer holidays are no longer the best time to offer a holiday club, we decide to organise a holiday club during the October half-term. The theme was 'Let there be light' and the children took part in a variety of activities such as craft, stories, songs and games. We made large Olympic-style torches that we could wave during singing time, decorated mini beast sun catchers and made banners to decorate the hall. The children also learned a new

song "Carry the Light" from New Wine which proved to be popular and is still being sung in Junior Church. We hope that we will be able to share it with you in church!

The holiday club finished with a light party disco on the Tuesday evening for parents and children with dancing and games for all.

Our 2017 holiday club proved to be a great success and we hope to run another during the October half-term in 2018.

Beverley McKeon
Commissioned Children's Minister

7.9 Home Groups

Five Home Groups have met in 2017 in and around the parish, usually on alternate Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays from the autumn until early summer. One afternoon group meets monthly at Wolstenholme on a Wednesday afternoon. During Lent, our Assistant Curate, the Revd Daniel Norris, led a four-week combined group in church looking at the Eucharist.

Each group chooses its own programme of study, some finding it more helpful to spend several weeks following the same theme, while others prefer to discuss different Bible passages from meeting to meeting. The topics covered between all the groups continue to be many and varied, quite an eclectic range, using films or DVD, Bible study courses that cover an entire book of the Bible, or other books that explore different facets of our faith. Some of these have been easier to study than others, but all who attend find them to be worthwhile and help them to grow in their Christian faith.

Home Groups provide opportunities to meet fellow parishioners in a deeper fellowship. There is always space in one or another of the groups, so newcomers are **very** welcome to join at any time. Please speak to me if you would like to join a group.

By the end of the year there was change as one group disbanded after meeting for a number of years. The leader of another group retired having led the group since its inception in 2006! We are grateful for all who lead groups either continuously or within a rota. We are also grateful to our hosts for the generosity of their hospitality in the regular invasion of their homes. No one is expected to do so forever!!

Jean Orpwood

7.10 Interfaith Matters

St John's continues to be a faith community member of Harrow Interfaith (HIF). As such, all those connected with St John's are entitled to attend its events. HIF thanks St John's folk for their participation in its activities. As one of the country's longest standing local inter-faith groups, HIF continues to focus its aim of building understanding, respect and friendship among faiths in Harrow, one of the most religiously diverse and observant areas in the UK. Currently, from St John's, John Albin serves HIF as Vice-Chairman and Pat Stevens as Secretary.

During the year HIF reached out to Harrow's faith communities and local voluntary organisations and worked closely with Harrow Council, Harrow Metropolitan Police and

Voluntary Action Harrow Co-operative, to contribute to the development of a cohesive, compassionate, peaceful and safe borough, where all can flourish. HIF organises the annual Harrow Holocaust Memorial event, remembering all who have suffered and continue to suffer through genocide, persecution, expulsion from their homeland, slavery, abuse and unequal opportunities. Moving testimonies from survivors of holocaust in Germany, Poland, Bosnia and Ruanda join with performances by musicians, poets and young people leading to a pledge by all present to work together for peace and mutual respect. A community discussion on safety in Harrow was held in conjunction with Harrow Metropolitan Police, exploring what makes us feel safe or unsafe, detailed reports of which were passed on to relevant organisations. Harrow Quakers invited HIF to organise a session at the Friends' Meeting House during Quaker Week, when hospital chaplains and representatives of mental health organisations looked at the links between faith, health, mental health and well-being. During Inter Faith Week HIF produced its Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow presentation, looking at the way in which past activities provide a springboard for the future and working towards its final aim of bringing mankind together as One, or as we should say, contributing to the realisation of the Kingdom of God.

As always, Harrow Interfaith's spiritual development was enhanced throughout the year by invitations from faith communities to share their treasures of belief, tradition and action by invitations to attend services, lectures, gatherings for prayer, joyous celebrations and solemn commemorations, along with plentiful opportunities for learning and feasting. Harrow Interfaith events are announced through posters in the church porch and notices in the Sunday pew sheets. All are welcome to HIF events. Please visit the HIF website www.harrowinterfaith.org for further information.

Pat Stevens

7.11 Junior Church

Junior Church numbers continue to be steady even though we have had some families move away during the last year. Most weeks we welcome around 20 children which is a real pleasure. During the past year we have continued to use material which follows the Lectionary so that the children are hearing the same message as the congregation, but in a more child friendly way.

- Bubbles – (babies and toddlers) this group has an average of 3 babies and toddlers each week. These children take part in playtime, song time, story time and craft time and this gives an opportunity for those parents that wish to go over to church.
- Splash – (pre-school to Year 2 aged children) these children take part in story sessions, art and craft, prayer, games and singing. We also have some sessions using the Godly Play material which is always popular.
- Xstream – (Year 3 and above) these children take part in singing, Bible reading, prayer, stories and games.
- The Grid – (Year 7 and above) the Grid meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month led by Mark Maslin, Daniel McKeon and Karen Omisore. Numbers do fluctuate but they always have a great time. The sessions are varied, sometimes they look at the appointed Bible reading and sometimes they have a debate with plenty of questions being asked.

Junior Church has had a busy year and we have been part of several church events and services. We also held a Christingle-making workshop for both adults and children at the Rectory which proved to be fun. The Christingles were prepared for the service the following day. We have also played our instruments at various church services and we look forward to doing so again. Junior Church also continues to support the Mission to Seafarers during Lent.

All in all, Junior Church has been very busy throughout 2017, and we look forward to the next year.

Beverley McKeon
Junior Church Leader

7.12 Little Fishers

Our Little Fishers group for Babies and Toddlers with their mums, dads, grandparents and carers meets every Tuesday in term time from 1.15pm-2.45pm in the Micklem Hall in Church House. We have a variety of toys, a craft session each week, refreshments and songs and stories. When the weather is good the children are able to play on Church Field using our outdoor toys.

This year we have had our usual Teddy Bear's Picnic and a visit from Father Christmas.

Many of our parents are young mums, often living away from their own parents, and many new friendships have been formed and new families have come to our church. Do let anyone know who you think would like to join us.

Sylvia Daniels, Edit Rees and Marianne Wright

7.13 Music

I am pleased to say that, as before, the standard and variety of music in church remains fairly constant and has not declined in recent years. We have everything from ancient 'plainsong' tunes through to 21st century hymn tunes and songs. We have also had some hymns that are not in our hymn book by making use of the new projector, which is much more convenient and environmentally friendly than printing and handing out sheets of paper.

We have a robed choir who help to lead the music in our worship for most Sunday morning services, for our monthly service of evensong and for our Christmas carol service. If you are 'soprano' voice you don't need to be able to read music, just be able to sing in tune. If you can sing alto, tenor or bass then please come and see what it's about, without any commitment. An informal chat will not result in any pressure for you to join, I promise!

We also have a group of singers and musicians who lead the singing at our all-age services.

A new venture within the last year is our 'Engage' evening service, which has a worship band, primarily from Stanmore Baptist Church.

Our Junior Choir do not sing Sunday by Sunday with the adult choir because a lot of them attend other churches, but they again joined in with our Christmas carol service and had a very enjoyable time.

If you would like to join in with any of these groups, please talk to me.

As I reported last year there are, unfortunately, an increasing number of faults with the organ, which was built in 1863 and had a major rebuild in 1925. Some of the 'simple fix' faults have been repaired this year, but it will probably take about 6 months and cost around £100,000 to get it back in to good working order. We have received two estimates and are waiting for a third. Do you think you might be able to help to actively research where we can best get grants towards these repairs and apply for these grants? If you think you might be able to help with this (or you know someone who might be) please initially have a chat with Matthew and/or myself without any commitment.

I must record my gratitude to Lydia McLean for suggesting the hymns month by month and to Matthew for his input into this selection, and I would also like to thank everyone who contributes towards the music in church, even if this is just joining in with the singing in the congregation.

Philip Rees
Organist and Director of Music

7.14 Old Church Working Group

Our main objective continues to be raising in excess of £20,000 to prepare an Options Appraisal for presentation to the London Borough of Harrow's Planning Department, and English Heritage. This will seek to gain approval for a major refurbishment to the Old Church to make it a usable building for the community of Stanmore and the environs, as well as protecting the existing structure for centuries to come.

Without this approval and the refurbishment, the fate of the Old Church will be in the hands of the environment and the inevitable fate of complete demolition.

Currently the Local Authority and English Heritage refuse to comment unless an Option Appraisal is produced and presented.

The Options Appraisal will be a professionally produced document to cover development proposals, costs and management of the building both during and after refurbishment, social needs and projected usage of the completed building.

During the year we have been assisted by nominated personnel from Kevin Rogers, Head of Parish Property Support for the Diocese of London. These were Alice Yates, Susan Speece and most recently Charlotte Dodgeon. We have secured a £5,000 grant from the Architectural Heritage Fund and various monies from Harrow Conservation and donations from various bodies. In total this amounts to just under £10,000. We need another £10,000 to be able to commission the Options Appraisal.

One option is to apply for funds from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Charlotte will be assisting us with the application.

We have received letters of support from Harrow Museum, various schools, WS Gilbert Society and Stanmore Choral Society. A social needs document was prepared.

During the year a Quinquennial Inspection was carried out, together with a structural survey. Both confirmed continued deterioration of the fabric of the building but that the building is structurally sound, at present, to allow visitors to the Old Church.

During the year various vegetation growing from the walls both low and high was removed. A production company used and paid for use of the Old Church to produce a film. A meeting of the Working Group was held 8th October 2017.

The Stanmore Society has asked for a presentation of the proposals for the Old Church to be made to an open meeting on 26th April 2018 (8pm at Stanmore Library). This will be conducted by Rex Holmes highlighting the proposals, and Mick Oliver giving an Historical perspective. Do come along and support us!

Rex Holmes
Chair of the Old Church Working Group

7.15 Great Stanmore Old Church Consolidation Fund

Income and Expenditure for the Year ended 31st December 2017

Income

Donations, Sales and Interest £384.00

Expenditure

Fees/supplies £777.00
(-£393.00)

Balance Sheet

Bank Balance Total 31st December 2017

Barclays £3,389.20

Fund Balance 31st December 2016 £3,782.20

Less deficit for year 2016 (-£393.00)

Fund Balance 31st December 2017 £3,389.20

Ian Mackie MBE
Honorary Treasurer

7.16 Parish Magazine

Elizabeth Bowen, Pat Stevens and Frances Westcott continue to edit the magazine each month, giving details of coming events and activities. It is published in colour on St John's website with hard copies available to purchase in church. Mick and Sheila Oliver kindly distribute copies around the parish to those who have ordered them.

We thank the authors of our regular contributions: the Rector writes; Junior Church Column by Bev McKeon; poems and prayers by children at St John's School; environmental news and issues by Mick Oliver. A happy collaboration has developed between our cover artist Peter Williams and John Albin, who investigate and illustrate someone commemorated during the month in the Anglican Lectionary through a back-page illustration and article.

Occasional articles such as travel adventures, obituaries and a short story from New Zealand by our 'author in residence', Mark Johnson, add greatly to the interest of the magazine.

Grateful thanks are extended, as always, to Karen in the Parish Office for printing copies each month, often in conjunction with a heavy programme of preparing numerous church and parish items.

The editors would love to receive more readers' contributions, e.g. holiday memories, an interesting visit, news of former parishioners, a favourite poem or book recommendation, faith in the workplace, a joke or two, a short story, comment on a particular issue, even a 'letter to the editors'. Anything that interests you is fascinating for us.

Added to this, the editors would like to build up their editorial team and would encourage anyone with information/communication technology skills to come on board. Are there a couple of young people out there with ICT/design skills, maybe thinking about a career in journalism or media? Experience with St John's magazine might enhance your higher education or career application.

Pat Stevens

7.17 Parish Visitors

During the year we have visited a number of people at home, in hospital and nursing homes. We have many people who are very happy to visit, shop, pick up prescriptions etc. If you know of anyone who would welcome a visit or needs help, please let one of us know and we will arrange for someone to call.

Sylvia Daniels and Sheila Oliver

7.18 Peace, Justice, Environment and Energy

In 2017 St John's has continued to monitor its use of energy quarterly, by calendar year and by "heating season". We recognise that energy consumption represents a large part of the impact we have on our environment, and we have taken steps to find alternative suppliers for the energy we use.

We have continued to recycle our waste.

We took part in Unlock London's walk in Clapham and Battersea, which had an inspiring start at Holy Trinity Church in Clapham. This was the church where William Wilberforce and the Clapham Sect started their activities to abolish the slave trade, and to establish the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Our visit to Israel and Palestine in 2016 prompted us to take an interest in the current conflict there. The roots of this conflict can be traced to the Balfour Declaration, whose centenary fell this year. Members of the group attended two events to mark this centenary.

Mick Oliver

7.19 Prayer Ministry Team

Private prayer is offered every Sunday morning at the 9.30 am service. Two members of our team of nine will be in the chapel during the 9.30am Parish Communion to pray with anyone who comes for prayers for themselves or others.

Before each Sunday service members of the team meet together for a time of preparatory prayers. As always, we confirm the confidentiality of subject and content of any prayer for which we are asked.

Prayer Ministry Team

7.20 St John's Church of England School

We are very pleased to serve as governors of our church school and looking back across 2017, we can see just how much work goes on to provide the best education possible for the children. It is hard to believe that St John's School is almost 200 years old, and what is in place today is vastly different from the original school room set up in the south west corner of the churchyard of the Brick Church in 1824.

This year we thought it would be helpful to share the wider strategy of the school which is broken down in to aims, ethos, vision and values:

Aims

- To work together and be the best you can
- To care for and support one another
- To respect and value one another and the environment

Ethos

Often, visitors say of our school that it has a 'good feel', and this after just a brief time in the building. We believe that the distinctive characteristic that gives our school the 'good feel' factor is due to the Christian ethos which underpins and permeates all we do at St John's. It is this highly valued and widely shared ethos which makes our school special to us.

Vision

We make a difference

- I made a difference when you felt safe enough to come into school and not look back.
- I made a difference when you trusted me enough to talk and allowed me to care.
- I made a difference when I recognised your strengths and enabled you to reach for the stars.
- I made a difference when you felt it was ok to be different and confident about who you are.
- I made a difference when you punched the air and said "yes!" so many times.
- I made a difference when I took the time to make your learning exciting and engaging.
- I made a difference when I met you 10 years later and saw how happy and successful you were.

You're the reason I make a difference today.

Values

- *Faith* is our belief, love and trust in Christ. Through our faith we show Compassion and Respect. In our learning we Persevere and Aspire to be the best that we can.
- *Compassion* – We are fair, we care and show understanding towards others.
- *Respect* – Thinking and acting in a positive way about ourselves and others.
- *Perseverance* – We look 'I can't' in the eye and say 'I can!'
- *Aspiration* – Be determined to achieve and excel in all we do.

Governors take part in the annual cycle of school improvement by the interpretation and analysis of school data including; SATS results, Local Authority data, government data, Phonics Screening Check, Baseline Assessment, Ofsted Data Dashboard and regular internal school assessment data. Through data analysis pupil progress and attainment is scrutinised and vulnerable groups, including pupil premium children, are closely monitored. Data monitoring, together with external reports such as Ofsted, means that the Governors play an active role in the development of the annual School Improvement Plan.

The Governing Body continued to monitor the progress the school was making to address the actions arising from the June 2015 Ofsted Inspection with a particular focus on writing, maths and to challenge the more able. In addition, the following areas were identified in the School Improvement Plan for 2016/2017:

- To continue to raise standards in writing across the school, ensuring good or better progress is being made by ALL pupils.
- To continue to raise standards in maths across the school especially in mastery.
- To create a high challenge low stress curriculum which allows for our high ability learners to succeed.
- To develop an outdoor curriculum which offers challenge and enhances learning opportunities.
- To look after the well-being of all our pupils and staff.
- To embed the new RE curriculum.

During the year, Karen Omisore was re-elected by the PCC to serve another four-year term. Graham Denman retired after many years' service including some as Chair of Governors to the former Middle School. We thank him for his hard work. Graham Nicholson was appointed by the Deanery Synod (also for a four-year term) and Matthew Stone continues as Chair of Governors.

Closing words from Jo Hester, Headteacher

It has been great to develop our already strong links between the school and the church. Some of our parents (including past parents) are volunteers within the school and help out with hearing children read, attending trips as well as offering greatly appreciated classroom support. Our children have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to attend the Tea and Chat group, contribute to the Parish Magazine and attend the church services at the end of each term. It was wonderful to be a part of the confirmation service during the autumn term where we celebrated several of our pupils making this commitment.

Jill Medcalf, Graham Nicholson, Karen Omisore and Matthew Stone

7.21 Safeguarding

The PCC continues to monitor the way we work with children and young people to ensure that the Diocese of London's Safeguarding Policy is strictly followed. At every PCC Meeting safeguarding remains a substantive agenda item and a report is given on what sections of the policy are being renewed.

We do not allow anyone to work with our children and young people unless they have an up-to-date DBS check in place, and for all new applicants two references are obtained as part of our safer recruitment processes. Applicants undertake the online safeguarding training and the certificate of completion is passed to Beverley McKeon (PCC Members have all completed the training as well). A robust system is in place to ensure that DBS checks are renewed every five years in line with the Diocese of London's policy.

During 2017 the PCC undertook the following:

- Reviewed the Diocese of London's Safeguarding Policy
- Re-adopted the Safeguarding Policy Statement (which is on display in the church)
- Appointed Mark Lynch and Louise Gregory as Church Safeguarding Officers
- Re-appointed Sue Wright as the Children's Champion
- Reappointed Jenny Gurdon and Matthew Stone as Evidence Checkers
- Checked to ensure the Junior Church, Holiday Club and Junior Choir Registration Forms cover the taking of photographs
- Checked to ensure that each person who works with children and young people has an up-to-date DBS check in place. There are currently 50 people across St John's Church who hold up-to-date DBS checks (including those involved in ministry)
- Updated the safeguarding posters which are on display in the Church and Church House
- Reviewed the Role Descriptions for the Commissioned Children's Minister, Director of Music, Holiday Club, Junior Church, Little Fishers and the Youth Group. Introduced a new Role Description for Junior Choir leaders.
- Renewed the Declarations on Safeguarding and Volunteer Agreements for Holiday Club, Junior Church, Little Fishers and the Youth Group (and introduced for the Junior Choir)
- Reviewed the Group Risk Assessments for Holiday Club, Junior Church (incl. crossing Old Church Lane), Little Fishers, and the Youth Group
- Reviewed the hiring agreements for Church House to ensure that the groups that work with children who hire the premises on a regular basis have their own safeguarding policies in place. Copies of these policies, together with their insurance, are obtained from each group annually and filed in the Parish Office. These groups are also sent a copy of our Safeguarding Policy.

When people hire the premises on a one-off basis, such as a child's birthday party, they are also sent a copy of our Safeguarding Policy and sign a clause on the Booking Form to say they have received a copy and undertake to follow the guidelines within it. The Terms and Conditions of Hire reflect the importance of our safeguarding procedures being followed.

- Updated the General and Fire Risk Assessments for the Church and Church House
- Updated the Health & Safety Policy
- Introduced an advice sheet to give information on domestic abuse and where to get help. Copies are available in Church (which is open each day) and in the toilets in Church House so they can be taken if needed.
- Literature about domestic abuse is available in the Church.
- We organised a local domestic abuse awareness seminar on 1st November which was well supported. The seminar was led by a member of staff from Restored Relationships [<https://www.restoredrelationships.org/>] – a domestic abuse charity based in SW London. Guest speakers included the Diocese of London's Safeguarding Adviser and a Police Officer.
- An internal audit of our safeguarding procedures was undertaken by Mark Lynch using the Diocese of London's template.

The PCC also considered:

- 1) whether special procedures needed to be introduced to safeguard any **vulnerable adults** who were part of the church community. The PCC decided that it was not necessary at the current time as there were no vulnerable adults being formally supported by St John's Church. Two members of the congregation are currently being given lifts to/from church but the arrangements to do this have been organised privately. This matter is kept under review.
- 2) A discussion took place between the Rector, Churchwardens and Safeguarding Officers as to whether PCC Members needed to be DBS checked. The Diocese of London asked all parishes to do this. It was agreed that this was not necessary unless PCC Members worked with children, young people or vulnerable adults. The vast majority of PCC Members are DBS checked already.

In conclusion, we have demonstrated due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children (as is our duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016). Safeguarding should be viewed as a shared responsibility and is always most effectively undertaken when an entire community works together to keep the children, young people and any vulnerable adults safe.

If you have any questions about our safeguarding procedures or a concern, please contact Mark Lynch or Louise Gregory without delay.

Matthew Stone

7.22 Social Committee

Once again we started the year with our pre-lent lunch. We had a choice of two vegetarian soups served with crusty bread followed by pancakes and fruit salad. As usual everything went well on the day thanks to all those who kindly helped with serving and clearing up.

This was followed by Easter when we served wine alongside Café St Jean. In July we had our Dedication Festival. On the day we had some very tasty cakes to serve, which everyone seemed to enjoy. Next on the agenda was the 17th September Battle of Britain Service when we served tea, coffee and fruit juices after the 11am service.

We followed this, at the beginning of October, with another successful Harvest Lunch. This time it was chicken casserole followed by apple pie, fruit salad and ice cream. Then came the Confirmation Service at the end of October. This was celebrated with wine, juice and some more splendid cakes.

In November we had our annual Memorial Service following which we offered tea and biscuits for those who attended.

On the day of the Nine Lessons and Carols Service in December, we proved tea and biscuits for the choir. After the service we served mince pies and mulled wine to a very full Wolstenholme Hall.

Unfortunately during the year we lost a couple of our team but also gained one. We 'carried on regardless'! Thank you once again to our team and a special thank you to Tracy Shaw, our Secretary, for her hard work. Last but by no means least, thanks to our band of volunteers who help clear up after these functions.

Marianne Wright

7.23 Tea & Chat

Tea & Chat on Tuesday afternoons has been well supported and there were many cups of tea, chats and laughs over the year. As usual, sometimes we have had special entertainment. 'The Curious Disappearance of Glen Millar' drew in a very good audience to hear this fascinating talk. 'Beach Donkeys' in August appealed to both the young and the not so young. We were treated to two visits from St John's School 'Sing Up' club, one at Christmas as usual, with a second in the spring. Children from Aylward Primary School also came when, as well as singing, they brought some of their work to show us.

Snow meant we had to cancel the Christmas Quiz afternoon but with other regular events involving food – fish and chip lunch and strawberry tea - the year has passed very pleasantly. Some people come every week and others come just occasionally. The welcome is always the same – warm and friendly.

Sheila Oliver

7.24 Welcome at St John's

The Welcome Team members have been particularly resilient during the recent cold spells and snowy weather. Somehow they always manage to have a smile on their faces (albeit some Sundays maybe somewhat frozen!) and a helping hand at the ready to welcome and assist members of the congregation as they approach and enter the church for the 9.30am Parish Communion. Quite a few new church members have commented that they have been made to feel so welcome and part of that is the initial approach made by members of the Welcome Team.

Being on the Welcome Team rota each month is an ongoing commitment and on behalf of all members of the congregation I should like to thank team members for the very important role they play so willingly.

Rosemary Mackenzie-Corby

7.25 Youth Group

Our youth group has continued to grow steadily over the past year and we now have up to 20 members attending the various events we organise throughout the year. We meet each month on a Friday evening and have undertaken a range of activities including ten pin bowling, trampolining, Laser Tag and attending the Harrow RFC fireworks. We also have enjoyed some quieter games evenings at The Rectory which often involve pizza! We look forward to continue growing and supporting our youth in the next year. We remain grateful to the leaders and parents who help with transport.

Daniel McKeon

8. Assistant Curate's Review

It is difficult to believe that it is almost three years since I was ordained Deacon at St Paul's Cathedral by the former Bishop of London. I am now looking forward to meeting the new Bishop of London.

Once again, it has been a great pleasure to serve as Assistant Curate at St John's this year. A particular highlight this year has been the great privilege that I have had to accompany so many adults as they prepared for baptism and confirmation in October 2017. It is wonderful to see so many people taking such important steps forwards in their Christian journey.

I have continued to enjoy being part of a Post Ordination Training group in the Willesden Episcopal Area. We meet monthly to support one another and receive training and inspiration. This year we have been exploring a wide range of aspects of church life from leading a PCC, to finding out the legal facts about marriage and making faculty applications for improvement works to Church buildings. I have also attended training with Bereavement Care.

This year has again been a particularly busy one in my ministry in education. St Jérôme C E Bilingual School welcomed another 60 children and their families in September and the Bishop of Willesden visited to open our Godly Play Classroom. Holy Trinity School was inspected by

Ofsted and remains a good school. It has also been good to get to know the Revd Ann Lynes who is the new Vicar at Holy Trinity Northwood.

I am grateful for the love and support that I receive from all of the St John's community and I thank you for your prayers and your partnership in the gospel as we continue to serve the people of Stanmore. Please do continue to pray for me as I do for you.

The Revd Daniel Norris

9. Rector's Review

Having read all the short reports contained within this document, it is incredible just how much we have achieved together across 2017. The time seemed to fly by (probably a sign that I am getting older!) and it is good to be able to acknowledge that our services and activities have both continued and increased, that we have again invested to improve our fabric, and we have managed to end the year with a reasonable surplus - the first time for many years.

As well as the usual 'internal' things you expect the parish priest to undertake, it is important that I am out and about within the wider parish of Great Stanmore. I have continued as Chair of Trustees of the Bernays Memorial Institute, Padre to 2236 Stanmore Squadron (ATC) and a member of the Stanmore Park Metropolitan Police Ward Panel. Within the Willesden Episcopal Area, I remain the elected Harrow Deanery clergy representative on the Willesden Area Council. This is my sixth year of attending these meetings which are chaired by the Rt. Revd Pete Broadbent, and consider matters of strategy, finance, buildings and staffing amongst other things.

I have been busy with local schools, especially our parish school, where I remain heavily involved as parish priest and Chair of Governors. I have the joy of delivering assemblies, presiding over Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) Eucharists and welcoming the entire school community to the church at least once each term for school services. It is great to be able to make such good use of our new projector and screen on these occasions.

I have also spent time with the Year 4s from Aylward Primary School and Stanburn Primary School who visited the church on separate occasions during the summer term. Aylward liked it so much that the same children came back in the autumn term when they were in Year 5! I also deliver a termly assembly in their school.

I visited both Stanmore Park Nursery and Stanmore Montessori to speak about Christmas to the little children. It is good to have these connections with our local schools.

I continue to pray monthly with the Revd Shaun Lambert, Senior Minister of Stanmore Baptist Church, and Father Michael Munnely, Parish Priest of St William of York RC Church. On Good Friday we held our first walk of witness from St William's to St John's along The Broadway. We hosted the united service with a congregation of over 300.

Our connection with other local churches is a helpful reminder that we are part of something so much bigger than just St John's Church. We are not simply a cosy club where a group of liked minded individuals meet together to share a common interest. We are a church where each member of our community is a disciple; a follower of Jesus Christ. And it is through our worship, prayer, study of the Bible, sharing of fellowship with each other and our witnessing

to the Good News of Jesus Christ, that we are able to confirm and demonstrate our identity. We need to know who we are, what we believe and how being disciples of Jesus Christ impacts our daily lives. Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, nailed it in his book 'Being Disciples.' He said "*Discipleship is a state of being. Discipleship is about how we live; not just the decisions we make, not just the things we believe, but a state of being.*"

With a new service recently started called Engage which presents a different aspect to worship, a large confirmation service which saw 11 adults and 7 young people take a step in faith (and four children be admitted to communion before confirmation), a new home group opening shortly (and always the chance to join one of the existing ones), and a new venture into faith in action with the night shelter involvement, it is my hope and prayer that each of us will find new ways in 2018 to deepen our faith, develop our relationship with Jesus Christ, and with each other, and make our discipleship in all its forms our very state of being. May God bless each of you richly.

The Revd Matthew Stone

Back Cover Photograph: Baptism, March 2018. Used with permission.

